

MINUTES

DAKOTA COUNTY PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

April 13, 2010

Conference Room 520, 1 Mendota Road, West St. Paul, Minnesota

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioner Paul Krause, Chair of the Physical Development Committee of the Whole, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners in attendance:

Commissioner Joseph A. Harris, District 1
Commissioner Kathleen Gaylord, District 2
Commissioner Thomas Egan, District 3
Commissioner Nancy Schouweiler, District 4
Commissioner Liz Workman, District 5
Commissioner Paul J. Krause, District 6
Commissioner Willis E. Branning, District 7

Also in attendance were:

Brandt Richardson, County Administrator
Lynn Thompson, Division Director
Jay Stassen, Assistant County Attorney
Jeanne Nash Hoffmann, Administrative Coordinator

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

There was no new staff to introduce.

3. AUDIENCE

Chair Krause asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Committee on an item not on the agenda or if anyone wished to discuss an item on the Consent Agenda. No one came forward.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Harris, Second by Commissioner Egan, and passed on a 7-0 vote to approve the agenda for April 13, 2010, as presented.

5. CONSENT/INFORMATION AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Workman, Second by Commissioner Branning, and passed on a 7-0 vote to approve the consent agenda.

5.1 – Minutes Of The March 23, 2010 Meeting

Information item; no action requested.

5.2 –Authorization To Execute \$80,000 Income Contract With Minnesota Department of Natural Resources For State Acquisition Of 76-Acre Schoen/Voelker Property

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 02-90 (January 29, 2002), the County Board adopted a Farmland and Natural Area Plan in response to citizen concerns; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 03-334 (June 17, 2003), the County Board adopted Farmland and Natural Area Program (FNAP) Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, Harry Schoen and Margie Voelker submitted a 2005 FNAP natural area application for their property that included and surrounded Chimney Rock, a rare, geologic rock formation; and

WHEREAS, the FNAP Advisory Committee (AC) reviewed the Chimney Rock natural area acquisition project and ranked it as the fourth highest scoring 2005 natural area project; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2005, the FNAP AC recommended that the County Board give preliminary approval for the ten highest ranked 2007 natural area projects; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2006, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorized staff to initiate/continue negotiations with the landowners of the ten highest ranked natural areas from the 2005 FNAP application round; and

WHEREAS, the Scientific and Natural Areas Program (SNA), managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), preserves and perpetuates the ecological diversity of Minnesota's heritage; and

WHEREAS, the SNA Program owns and manages 141 preserves, totaling 180,000 acres throughout Minnesota, including four SNAs, totaling 531 acres, in Dakota County; and

WHEREAS, the Chimney Rock SNA was approved for acquisition by the DNR Commissioner's SNA Advisory Committee on February 7, 2007; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 07-228 (May 22, 2007), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners approved the establishment of the Chimney Rock Scientific and Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, Harry Schoen declined to sell 76-acre Chimney Rock property after extensive negotiations with the County; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Harry Schoen's heirs and Margie Voelker agreed to sell 76 acres of property containing Chimney Rock and high quality forest to the Minnesota DNR to establish the Chimney Rock Scientific and Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, the Chimney Rock project was added to the list of the 2009 FNAP natural area projects; and

WHEREAS, the FNAP AC during its June 4, 2009, meeting recommended that the 12 highest ranked natural area projects, including Chimney Rock, be preliminarily approved by the County Board for appraisal and negotiation; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No 09-410 (August 18, 2009), the County Board preliminarily approved the Chimney Rock project as one of the 12 highest ranked natural area projects for appraisal and negotiation; and

WHEREAS, the landowners are willing to reduce the sale price for their property by \$40,000 and the DNR has secured \$470,000 of state funds for this fee title acquisition; and

WHEREAS, the legal representative of Harry Schoen's estate and Margie Voelker have signed a four-month option with the state for sale of their property to the DNR for \$550,000; and

WHEREAS, during its February 18, 2010, meeting, the FNAP AC recommended that the County Board authorize expenditure of \$80,000 of FNAP funds to assist the DNR in acquiring the Schoen/Voelker property to establish the Chimney Rock SNA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute a State Income Contract with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to expend \$80,000 of Farmland and Natural Areas Program funds for state acquisition of the 76-acre Schoen/Voelker property for the purpose of establishing the Chimney Rock Scientific and Natural Area, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2010 Farmland and Natural Areas Program budget is hereby amended as follows:

Expense	
Schoen/Voelker Acquisition	\$80,000
Total Expense	\$80,000
 Revenue	
FNAP Fund Balance	\$80,000
Total Revenue	\$80,000

5.3 –Plat Commission Update – This was an information item; no action was requested.

6. REGULAR AGENDA

6.1 – Presentation Of Metropolitan Council’s Metropolitan Highway System Investment Study

Arlene McCarthy, Director of Transportation Services for the Metropolitan Council, and Scott McBride, Metro District Engineer for the Minnesota Department of Transportation addressed the Committee. Arlene provided an overview of the Metropolitan Highway System Investment Study (MHSIS) that reflects a new approach to addressing congestion, including strategies to maximize efficiency on the existing system. Scott provided background on how some of the concepts are being implemented in the Twin Cities region. He explained the MHSIS timeline that shows the draft Transportation Policy Plan amendments available for review in May, with the public comment period on the plan beginning in August. The public hearing on the plan amendment will be held in September with the record closing in October 2010. Met Council and Mn/DOT will adopt the final plan amendment in November 2010. There will be an open house at the Dakota County Western Service Center on April 22 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Arlene and Scott and representatives in the audience from Mn/DOT and Met Council responded to questions regarding the condition of minor arterials in the County including TH 3. They were told that TH 3 needs to be identified in the 20 years plan. Discussion was held on Mn/DOT’s lack of sufficient funding and the need to look at additional sources to achieve outcomes including the Congestion Management and Safety Plan and how TH 3 may be eligible to compete for this funding source.

This was an informational item; no action was requested.

6.2 – Presentation Of Minnesota Department of Transportation State Highway 77 (Cedar Avenue) Managed Lane Study

Cedar Avenue Project Manager Kristine Elwood, and Mn/DOT Project Manager Brian Kary addressed the Committee. Brian explained that Mn/DOT was undertaking this Managed Lane Corridor Study to reduce congestion along the corridor without moving the problem downstream, to provide advantages for transit and carpoolers, to provide a congestion-free choice for single occupant vehicles, all while utilizing the existing infrastructure. Brian explained that a managed lane system will move more people, more reliably, and facilitate increased capacity within existing rights of way, provide greater speed and reliability for transit, encourage greater transit use, and provide congestion-free managed lanes for those who choose to pay or ride transit.

Brian explained the advantages and disadvantages of the three alternatives:

Alternative 1A – Third Lane addition from 138th Street to Diffley Road

Alternative 2B – Mn/Pass – New HOV/HOT lane from 138th Street to Old Shakopee Road

Alternative 3B – Mn/Pass – Contra flow lane from 138th Street to Shakopee Road using moveable barrier system.

Discussion was held on the three alternatives, the environmental assessment that will need to be done with all of the alternatives, and the experience with the contra flow lane systems that are in place in Montreal and Boston.

Brian explained that the concepts will be further refined with recommendations in mid-summer on two alternatives to carry forward into the environmental assessment process.

This was an informational item; no action was requested.

6.3 – Scheduling Of County Board Workshop On 2030 Transportation Plan Update

Transportation Director Mark Krebsbach briefed this item. He indicated that another workshop will be requested later in the year to focus on final investment options.

Motion by Commissioner Egan, Second by Commissioner Workman, and passed on a 7-0 vote to recommend that the County Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Dakota County 2030 Transportation Plan is a component of the County's Comprehensive Plan (*DC 2030: Planning for the Future*) that was adopted by the County Board in May 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County 2030 Transportation Plan functions as a guide to the County's existing transportation system and as a plan for future needs of this system; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County 2030 Transportation Plan identifies major transportation investment needs, prioritizes these needs through adopted goals and supports the County's land use goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County 2025 Transportation Plan identifies an update every five years so current conditions and funding requirements can be identified with funding strategies to address needs within the County's 5-year Capital Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County 2030 Transportation Plan will provide for a detailed and comprehensive inventory of the existing and future County transportation system and needs; cost estimates; and process for prioritizing projects proposed for inclusion in the County's 5-year Capital Improvement Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby schedules a County Board workshop for May 18, 2010, following the County Board and Regional Railroad Authority meetings, in Conference Room 3A, Administration Center, Hastings, MN, for the purpose of discussing the Dakota County 2030 Transportation Plan Update.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

OMB Legislative Analyst Margaret Schreiner provided a legislative update. This was information only; no action was requested. It was suggested that as Bills are passed and signed, they be compiled separately and sent out.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Physical Development Division Director Lynn Thompson presented her update. No action was requested.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Harris, Second by Commissioner Schouweiler, and passed on a 7-0 vote to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeanne Nash Hoffmann
Administrative Coordinator